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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 251300Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/3PAQQ~8QQQX022
RUWDQAB/NTSB WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 8462
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RHMCSUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0071
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASH DC

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001001

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP AND EEB/TRA/OTP (WEBSTER)
FAA FOR API, AIG
NTSB FOR AS-10 (MCINTOSH, SEDOR)
TREASURY FOR OFAC (SUBIN)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [PGOV](#) [SU](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: UAE REQUEST FOR NTSB ASSISTANCE INTO AZZA AIR CRASH

REFS: A) WEBSTER/COOPER EMAILS
B) SECOR/BARNETT EMAILS

11. (SBU) On October 25, General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) Director General Saif Al Suwaidi called FAA Attache to request NTSB assistance with the investigation of the October 22 crash of a Boeing 707 cargo plan operated by Azza Air Transport. Al Suwaidi asked that the NTSB begin to assist with the investigation immediately, as the GCAA has limited capability. Al Suwaidi noted that Investigator in Charge (IIC) Ismail Abdel Wahed has spoken to the NTSB (Joe Sedor), but that it did not seem like the NTSB assistance with the investigation was forthcoming.

BACKGROUND

12. (SBU) On October 22, a Boeing 707-330C cargo plan owned by Azza Air Transport and leased to Sudan Airways crashed at Sharjah International Airport. (Note: Sharjah is one of the seven Emirates, located north of Dubai. End Note.) The plane was headed to Khartoum but crashed only minutes after takeoff in a deserted stretch of land adjacent to the airport. The airplane was almost completely destroyed, and all six crew members were killed. GCAA officials immediately responded along with other federal and local UAE emergency officials. DG Al Suwaidi subsequently told the press that the GCAA had begun its investigation, but was "inviting the US because they are more experienced with investigations of this kind with this type of aircraft. So we feel they can be helpful in determining the cause of the accident."

13. (SBU) Post understands that Azza Air Transport was designated by the U.S. Treasury Department pursuant to Executive Order 13400 for contributing to the conflict in Darfur. Post understands that NTSB support may require Treasury approval or licensing (ref emails).

COMMENT

14. (SBU) The GCAA is working to develop independent investigatory body, but does not currently have sufficient capacity to undertake a complete investigation. Post strongly encourages involved Washington agencies to try to facilitate the UAE's request for assistance. End Comment.
OLSON